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LETTER DATED 11 NOVEMBER 1998 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Following the tragic events of October 1993, a United Nations political presence in Burundi was established at the request of the Security Council, in support of initiatives aimed at promoting peace and reconciliation among the conflicting parties.

Since its establishment, the United Nations Office in Burundi, currently headed by Mr. Cheikh-Tidiane Sy (Senegal), has played an active and constructive role in improving, through seminars and other confidence-building activities, the relationships between the major political actors within Burundi. It has also assisted with the National Debate and the internal negotiations which culminated last June in the adoption of a political partnership and the formation of a transitional, broad-based government.

Following the encouraging results of the third round of the Arusha talks, there is a need for the United Nations Office in Burundi to continue to monitor the internal political and security situation, which is still fragile, and to help create an enabling environment for sustained commitment by the Burundians to negotiate in good faith during the subsequent rounds.

In view of the important role the United Nations Office in Burundi is playing at this crucial stage of the peace process, it is my intention to extend the mandate of the Office until the end of December 1999.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

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